

For immediate release  
February 24, 2004

## **INVASIVE PLANTS, SECONDARY WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 2 PUBLIC MEETING**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announces a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens' Forum on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Southwest High School Cafeteria, 1685 Hollister Street, San Ysidro, CA 92154. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about the Commission's projects and related issues in the area.

Experts will discuss efforts to control invasive plants affecting the Tijuana River Valley and the Colorado River. Dr. John Boland of the Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program, will discuss research into various treatment techniques to control invasive plant species in the valley. Preliminary results indicate that some treatment techniques worked well while others are not appropriate for the Tijuana River Valley. Additionally, exotic invasions appear to be less frequent than at first assumed, giving hope that control of invasive plants in the valley can be successful.

Staff from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the International Boundary and Water Commission will explain their efforts to control giant salvinia molesta, an invasive aquatic weed that affects the Colorado River at the U.S.-Mexico border. The presenters will discuss the current status of the weed in the Lower Colorado River as well as the application of control methods.

Additionally, wastewater researcher Gerhardt Van Drie will demonstrate an innovative process for providing secondary treatment of wastewater. The High Purity Oxygen Activated Sludge System is a low-odor system that uses the powers of buoyancy and gravity for mixing liquids and slurries in the treatment process.

A complete agenda appears below.

The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can call 619-662-7600 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
[sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov)

**USIBWC CITIZENS' FORUM**  
**Tuesday, March 2, 2004, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Southwest High School Cafeteria, 1685 Hollister St.**  
**San Ysidro, CA 92154**

**Agenda**

- High Purity Oxygen Secondary Wastewater Treatment - Gerhardt Van Drie, R.C.E., Wastewater Researcher
- The Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program: Phase 1 - Dr. John Boland, Project Manager, Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program
- Giant Salvinia Molesta, an Invasive Aquatic Weed - Francisco Bernal, Mexicali Manager, IBWC Mexican Section; Al Goff, Yuma Project Manager, USIBWC; William Solomon, Project Coordinator, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Office
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 619-662-7600 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov)